

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-34 will have been canceled and claims 35-46 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acceptance of the drawings filed in the present application on February 29, 2000, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's claims for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents as set forth in the Official Action.

Applicant also notes with appreciation Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on May 30, 2000 by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 Form, and for consideration of the documents cited in Information Disclosure Statement.

Turning to the merits of the action, The Examiner has rejected claims 20-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by MATSUNAI (U.S. Patent No. 5,357,350).

As noted above, Applicant has canceled these rejected claims and has submitted new claims 35- 46 for consideration. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection based on newly added claims 35-46 and will discuss said rejection with respect to the pending claims in the present application as will be set forth below herein. The newly

added claims 35-46 generally are based on canceled claim 20-34. Therefore, the newly added claims merely clarify the subject matter recited in the canceled claims, but do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Applicant's claims 35 and 36 relate to an image recording apparatus which has at least one of a copy mode and a facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus comprises a panel section which has input keys operable to input a numerical value corresponding to at least one of the number of copies in the copy mode and a telephone number of a destination in the facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus includes a display section which displays at least one of a screen for the copy mode and a screen for the facsimile mode. A display capacity of the screen in the copy mode is smaller than a display capacity of the screen in the facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus further has a controller which, when the copy mode is set and when the numerical value input by the panel section exceeds the display capacity of the screen in the copy mode, switches from the copy mode to the facsimile mode. Claim 44 recites a related method.

Applicant's claims 37-39 relate to an image recording apparatus which has a copy mode and a facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus comprises a panel section which has an input key operable to input a numerical value corresponding to one of the number of copies in the copy mode and a telephone number of a destination in the facsimile mode, and which has a start key which starts one of copying and facsimile transmission. The image recording apparatus also comprises a controller which determines whether or not a numerical value input by the panel section is a numerical

value corresponding to the number of copies when the copy mode is set, and which, when the numerical value input by the panel section is not the numerical value corresponding to the number of copies, does not start copying, even if the start key is actuated. Further, the controller waits for another input by the panel section when the controller does not start copying. Claim 45 recites a related method.

Applicant's claims 40-43 relate an image recording apparatus which has a copy mode and a facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus comprises a panel section which has an input key operable to input a numerical value corresponding to one of the number of copies in the copy mode and a telephone number of a destination in the facsimile mode. The image recording apparatus also comprises a controller which determines, when the copy mode is set, whether or not a numerical value input by the panel section includes a predetermined character, and which switches from the copy mode to the facsimile mode when the numerical value input by the panel section includes the predetermined character. Claim 46 recites a related method.

On the contrary, MATSUNAI relates to an image forming apparatus which inputs a numeric value, sets the numeric value as the number of copies of a copy mode, and sets the numeric value as a number for specifying a destination of a facsimile mode. The image forming apparatus detects the number of figures (e.g. digits), and performs one of the copy mode and the facsimile mode in accordance with the detected number of figures (e.g. digits).

MATSUNAI has a display section 18e which displays the input number of copies and an input facsimile number. However, in MATSUNAI, a display capacity of the screen in the copy mode, is equal to a display capacity of the screen in the facsimile mode, as shown in Fig. 2A and Fig. 2B of MATSUNAI.

On the other hand, in the present invention, the display capacity of the screen in the copy mode is smaller than the display capacity of the screen in the facsimile mode, as shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 of the present invention. Further, the specification of the present invention describes “For example, the threshold value for input digits is set at two to allow only two digits to be displayed”, at page 7 lines 12-13. In other words, in the present invention, the threshold value for input digits in the copy mode relates to how many digits can be displayed in the copy mode.

Thus, MATSUNAI does not disclose a display section in which the display capacity of the screen in the copy mode is smaller than the display capacity of the screen in the facsimile mode. MATSUNAI also does not disclose a controller which, when the copy mode is set and when the numerical value input by the panel section exceeds the display capacity of the screen in the copy mode, switches from the copy mode to the facsimile mode.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 35-36 and 44 are not disclosed in MATSUNAI cited by the Examiner.

Further, MATSUNAI changes a copy mode into a facsimile mode when the copy mode is set and when the number of figures input by the numeric key is 5 or more, as

described in Fig. 4 of MATSUNAI. However, MATSUNAI does not maintain the copy mode when the input number of figures is 5 or more. Thus, MATSUNAI does not disclose the image forming apparatus which maintains the copy mode but does not start copying, when the copy mode is set and when the numerical value input by the panel section is not the numerical value corresponding to the number of copies. MATSUNAI also does not contain any disclosure about the image forming apparatus which waits for another input by the panel section when the controller does not start copying.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 37-39 and 45 are not disclosed in MATSUNAI cited by the Examiner.

Furthermore, MATSUNAI does not disclose the image forming apparatus which determines, when the copy mode is set, whether or not a numerical value input by the panel section includes a predetermined character. MATSUNAI also does not contain any disclosure about the image forming apparatus which switches from the copy mode to the facsimile mode when the numerical value input by the panel section includes the predetermined character.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 40-43 and 46 are not disclosed in MATSUNAI cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

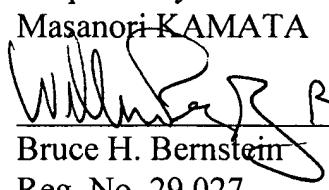
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims and has submitted new claims for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the new claims, Applicant has pointed out the features thereof and has contrasted the features of the new claims with the disclosure of the reference. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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